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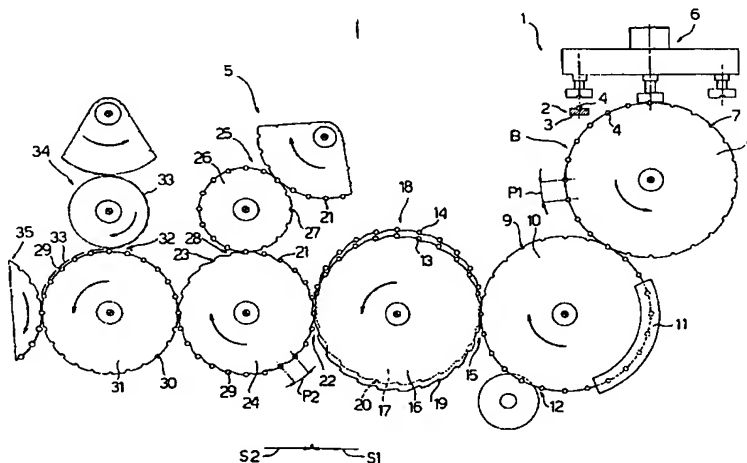
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(54) Title: METHOD OF PRODUCING FILTER-TIPPED CIGARETTES



(57) Abstract: An orderly succession of first tobacco articles (4), each defined by a double cigarette portion, is fed, with a first pitch (P1), to a first portion (S1) of a path (B) along a filter assembly machine (5); as they travel along the first portion, the first articles (4) are cut into respective pairs of portions (13, 14), and the portions in each pair are spaced axially and then fed along a second portion (S2) of the path (B); as they travel along the second portion, the portion (13, 14) in each pair are separated by the interposition of a double filter (21) to form a succession of second articles (29), each defined by the relative pair of portions (13, 14) and by the relative interposed double filter (21); a respective strip (33) being applied, by rolling, to each second article (29) to connect the pair of portions (13, 14) and the double filter (21) and form a third article (40) defined by a double cigarette; and the first articles (4) being subjected to a pitch reduction to assume, along the first portion (S1) of the path, a second pitch (P2) shorter than the first pitch (P1) and of a length approximately equal to but no shorter than the length of the relative strip (33).



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*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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